capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,589 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Kolkata as a regional HUB

1395. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government and its national carriers (Air India and Indian Airlines) are gearing up to take advantage of the opportunities emanating from open sky policy with countries of ASEAN;

(b) if so, whether Kolkata Airport is sought to be developed as a regional hub in this context;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) The liberalization of air services arrangements with ASEAN nations, will provide reciprocal opportunities to Indian carriers to expand their operation to this region. Air India and Indian Airlines will be able to mount additional services from our international airports including Kolkata, to ASEAN countries. However, the actual utilization of these opportunities will depend on their commercial judgement.

Expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd.

1396. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved fresh investment and expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd., a subsidiary of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the purpose for investment and weather the said business plan has been approved by the Board of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Board of Indian Airlines in its 65th meeting held on 27.3.2003 approved the formation of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd., a subsidiary Company of Indian Airlines, to carry out handling services at airports.

Management of Airports

1397. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any modernization plans have been envisaged to make airports world class in view of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the management of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;

(c) which airports are being taken up for modernization and whether Bangalore Airport is also one of them;

(d) how the proposed modernization is going to be financed;

(e) whether private sector is being invited to participate in the venture; and

(f) what is the estimated expenditure involved and how long it would take to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The proposal of restructuring of airports at New Delhi and Mumbai of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Joint Venture (JV) route was approved to upgrade them to world class international airports.

(b) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been constituted to decide detailed modalities for projects of Delhi and Mumbai airports. Tenders have been floated for appointment of Financial Consultant.

(c) Delhi and Mumbai have been taken up for re-structuring. A greenfield international airport at Devenahalli in Bangalore has also been approved.